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High-Precision Mirrors for Coronagraphic Applications

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High Precision Mirrors for Coronagraphic Applications



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Program Objectives

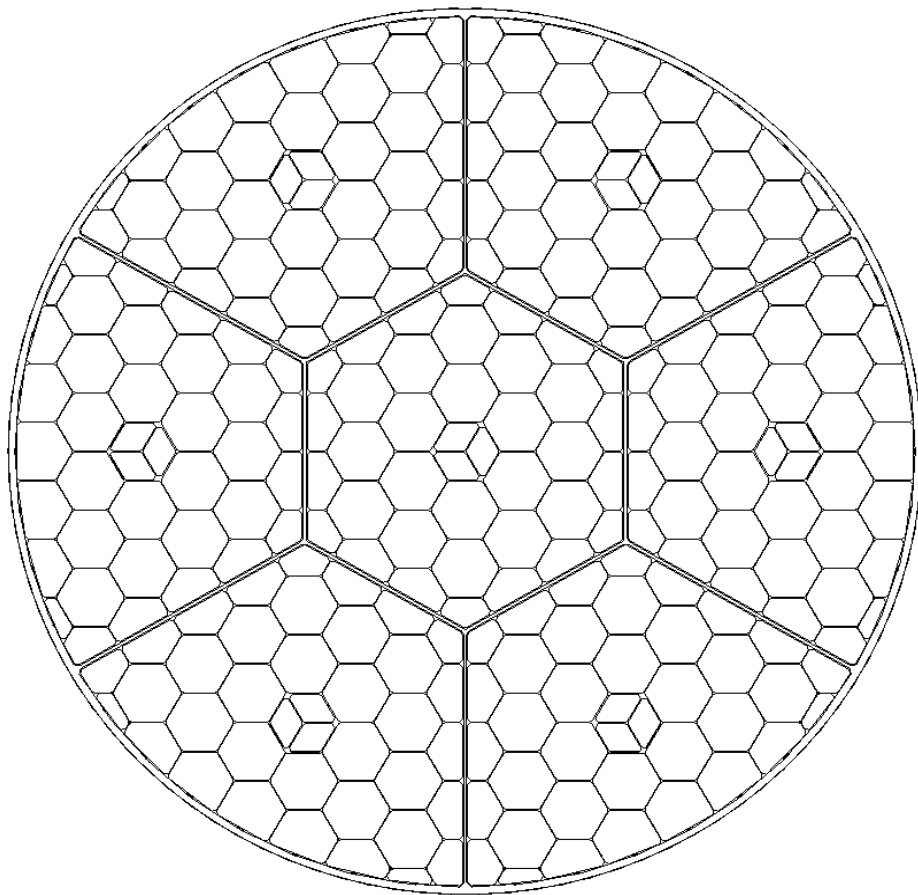
- **Technology Demonstration Mirror (TDM)**
 - Demonstrate that a large, lightweight, space-qualifiable mirror can be finished and coated to achieve the type of mid-spatial performance needed for a coronagraphic TPF
 - Demonstrate that this mirror's surface can be measured to within the accuracy needed for a coronagraphic TPF
 - Demonstrate that this mirror will maintain its performance through mounting, transportation, handling, launch, and operation
- **Large Monolithic Mirror (LMM)**
 - Develop Mirror Concept for TPF Mission
 - Perform first-order risk-reduction experiments to demonstrate blank manufacturing feasibility



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Kodak's Baseline Mirror Design for TDM

- **A preliminary 1.9 m off-axis mounted mirror design has been completed, which satisfies TDM requirements**
 - Material: Corning ULE® glass gives thermal stability
 - Sandwich Construction: A lightweight honeycomb core sandwiched between front & back faceplates gives structural efficiency (minimizes mirror depth & mass)
 - Segmented Core: Reduces core fabrication risk and cost significantly
 - Low-Temperature Fused (LTF): Gives highly stable all-ULE® construction
 - Low-Temperature Slumped (LTS): Gives efficient near-net shape fabrication and uniform faceplate thicknesses. Processing of components as plano prior to LTS results in reduced cost

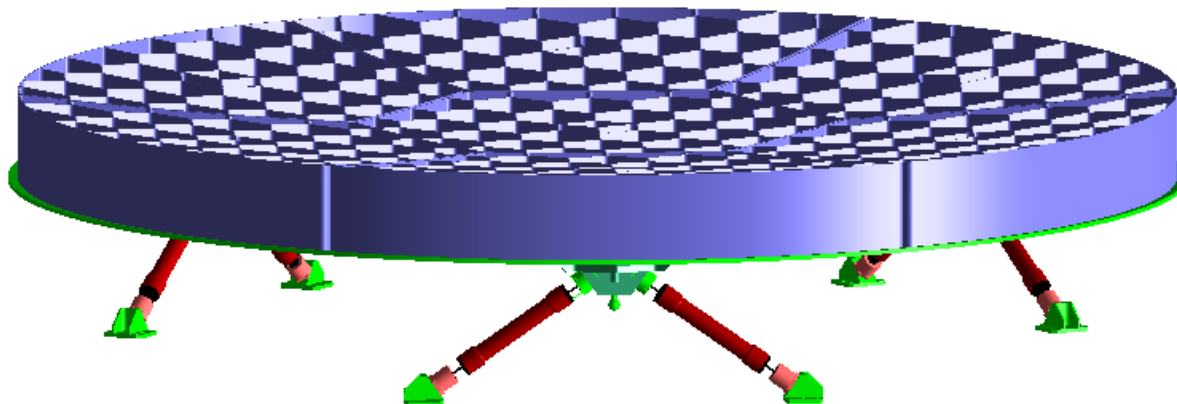




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TDM Mounting

- Mounting and testing large, passive mirrors for zero-g applications is not trivial
- Kodak has demonstrated a proprietary design to virtually eliminate mount strain
 - No complex instrumentation required
 - Enables quick integration of PM onto mount struts
 - Readily allows for pre- and post- strut engagement optical testing



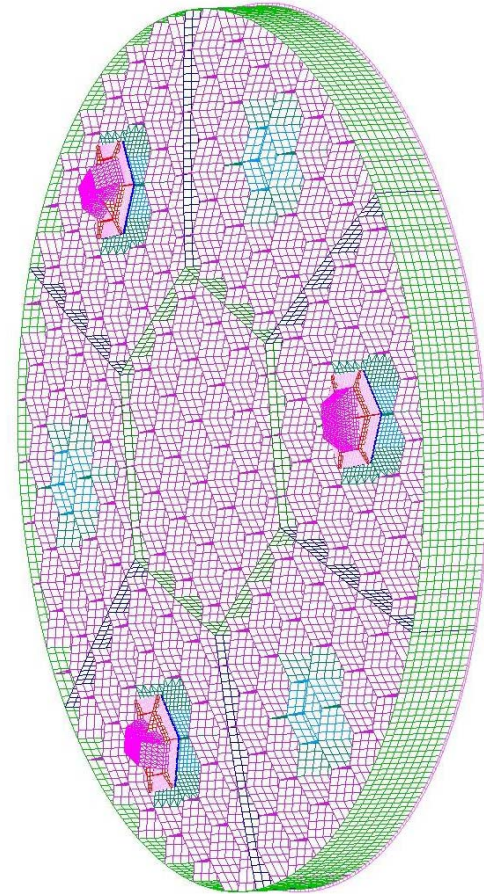
TMD CAD Model
(front plate removed to show core structure)



Predicted TDM Performance

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- **Areal density**
 - Including mount: 46.9 kg/m² (vs 60 kg/m² req.)
 - Mirror alone: 41.9 kg/m²
- **Stiffness**
 - First free mode: 259 Hz (vs 200 Hz req.)
 - First mounted mode: 87 Hz (vs 85 Hz req.)
- **On-orbit surface figure**
 - Low freq ($\lambda > 40\text{cm}$): 10 nm rms
 - Mid freq ($40\text{cm} > \lambda > 2\text{cm}$): 4.7 nm rms
 - High freq ($2\text{cm} > \lambda > 1\text{mm}$): 1.4 nm rms
- **Stress margins of safety are positive in all mirror and mount components**

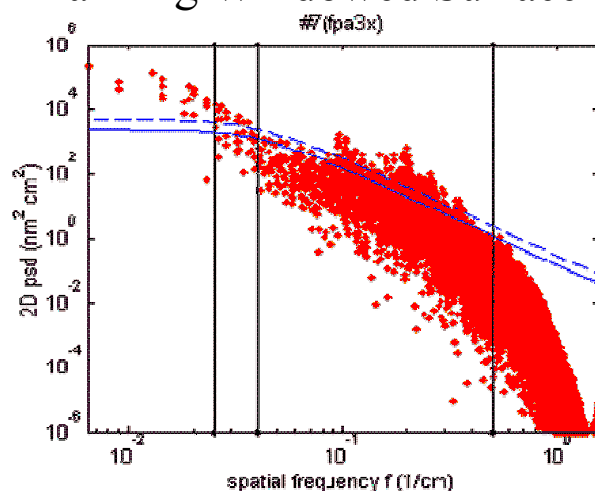
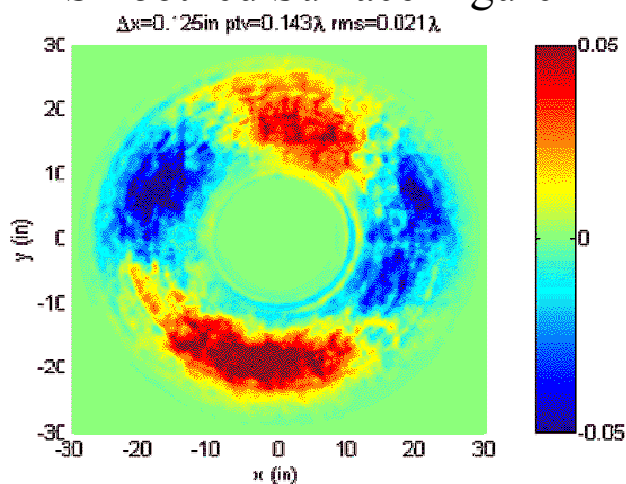
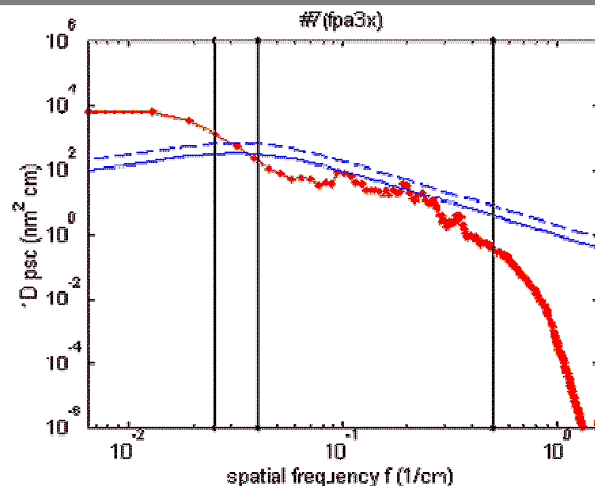
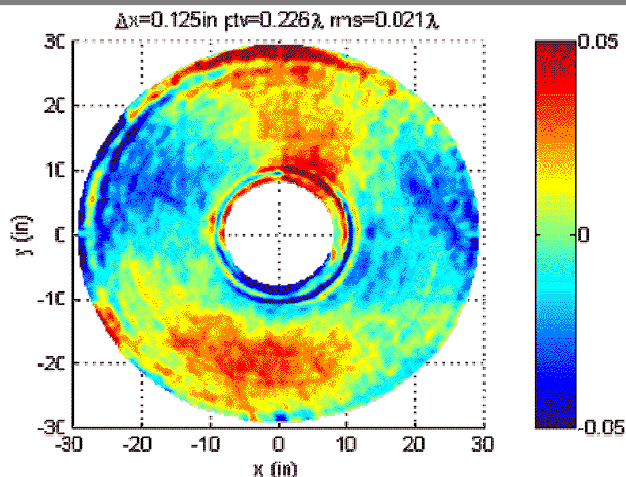


TDM Finite Element Model
(back plate removed to show
core details)



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Existing Kodak Processes Yield Superb Performance in Mid-Spatial Bands

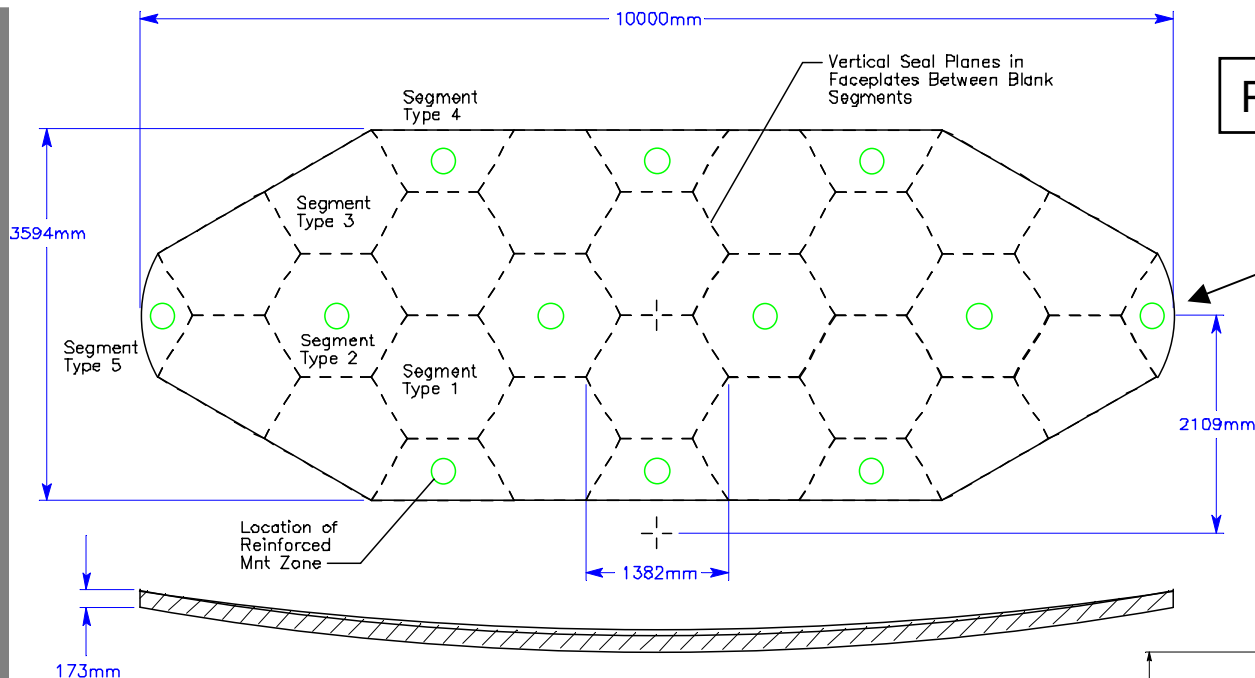


Solid blue line on PSD plots is TDM requirement, dashed blue line is not-to-exceed limit.



Large Monolithic Mirror for TPF

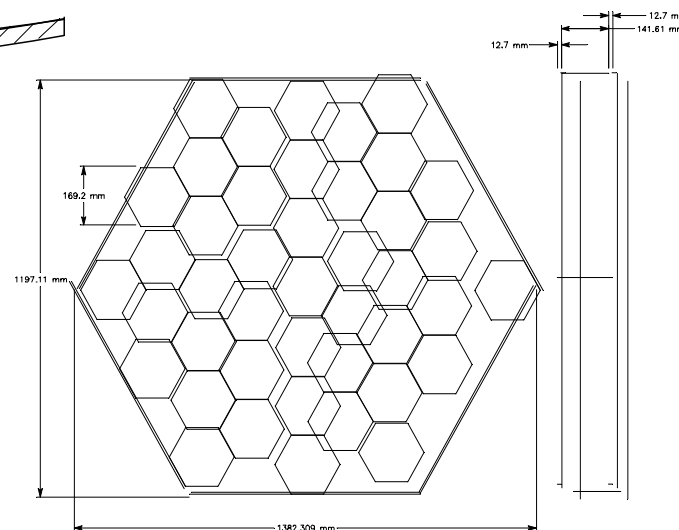
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Proposed LMM blank geometry

Proposed LTF plano
segment blank geometry

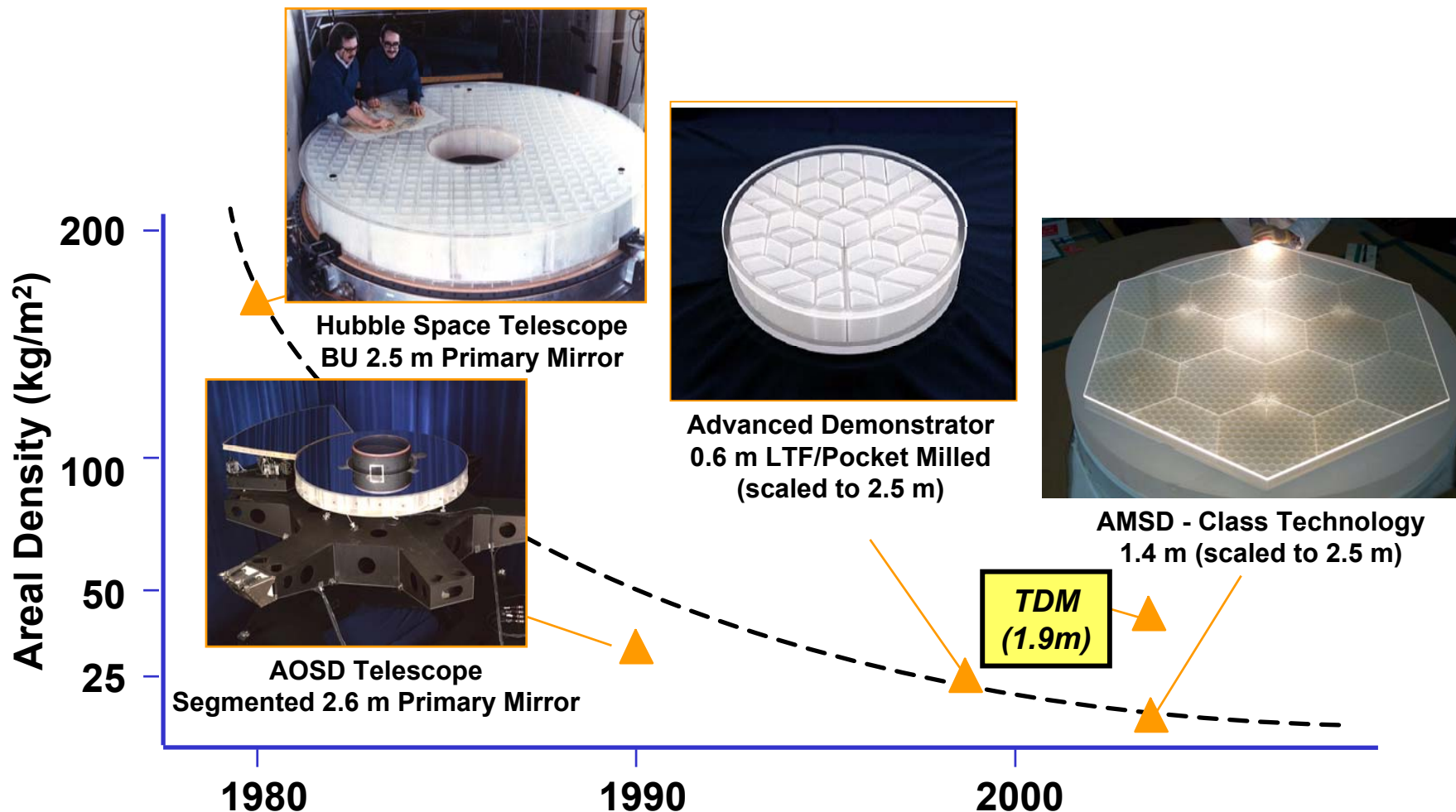
- Lightweight design (25 kg/m^2) incorporates pocket-milled plates
- Low-temperature fusion selected for stability
- Edge welding to reduce manufacturing risk
- Low-temperature slumping to produce concave/convex blank





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Key Innovations in Lightweight Mirror Technology

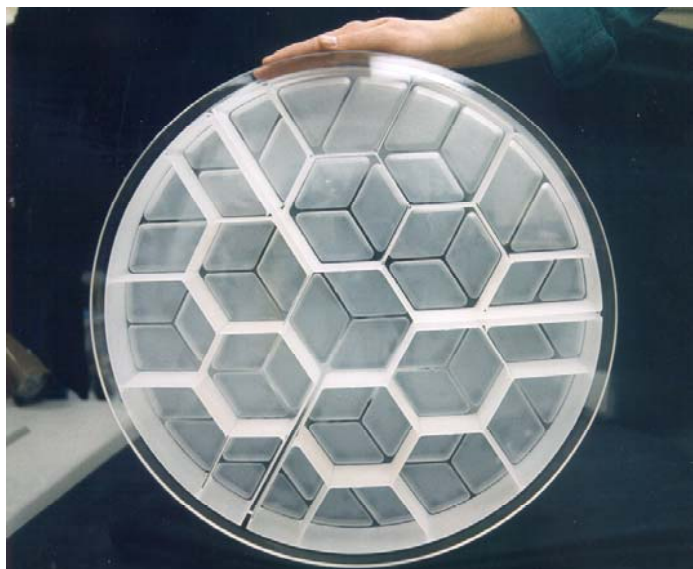




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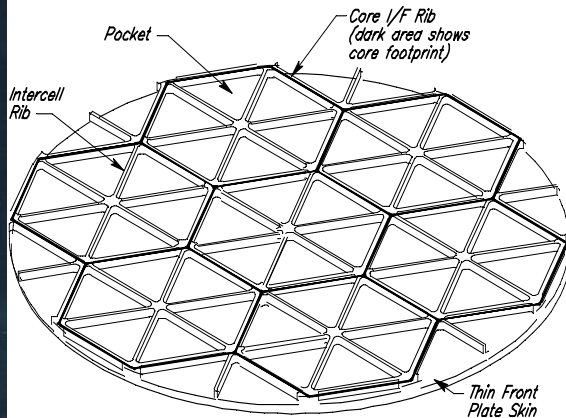
Faceplate Pocket Milling

- Front and back faceplates are pocket milled to reduce mirror mass while maintaining optical performance



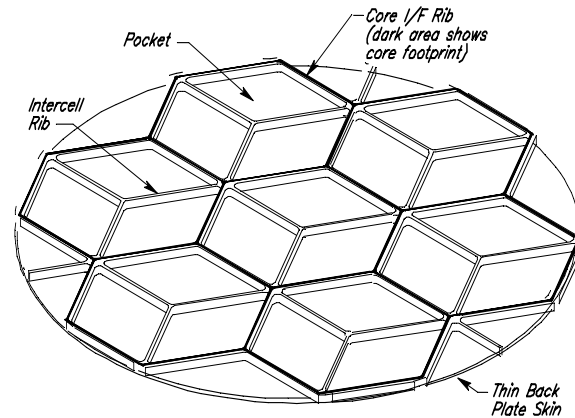
**Pocket-Milled Demonstration Mirror
(Includes a Segmented Core)**

FP Pocket Milling: 6 Ribs Per Cell



*Section of Pocket Milled Front Plate
(Isometric View)*

BP Pocket Milling: 3 Ribs Per Cell



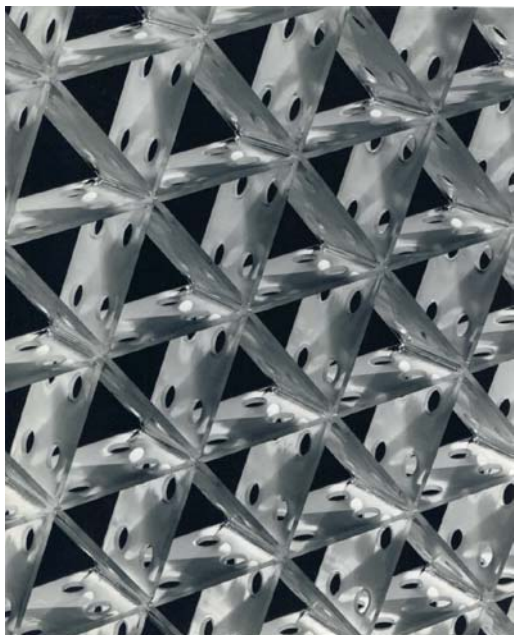
*Section of Pocket Milled Back Plate
(Isometric View)*



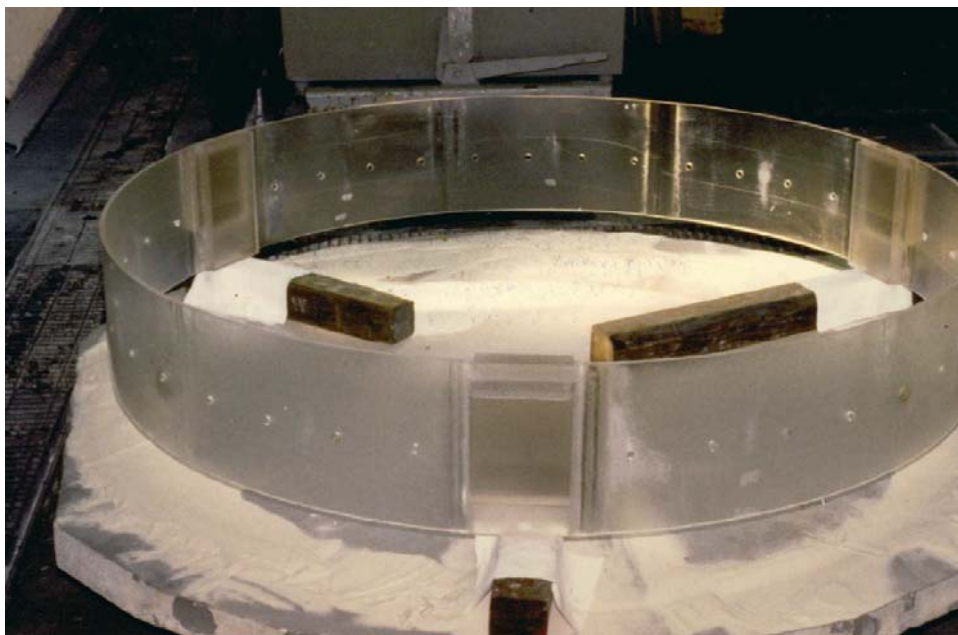
Edge Welding of ULE® Glass

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- **Edge welding lightweight ULE® blanks is a key LMM technology**
 - Corning has a long history of welding ULE® glass into various shapes
 - Edge welding lightweight blanks for LMM is an extension of existing methods



Fusion Welded ULE® Mirror Core



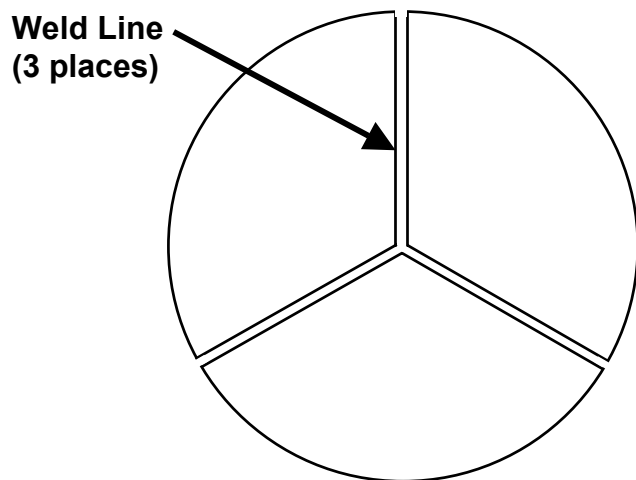
Large-Fusion Welded ULE® Mirror Edge Ring



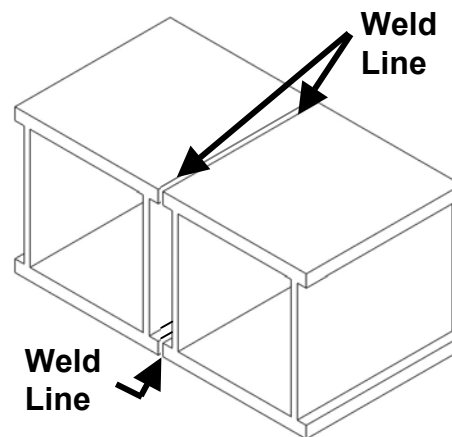
Edge-Welding Demonstrations

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- **Corning is fabricating edge-welded test samples for Kodak evaluation under a current NRA study**
 - Samples will be processed at Kodak to evaluate optical finishing across welds and optical performance of seams in welded mirrors



Solid 230 mm Edge-Welded Demo Mirror



Lightweight Edge-Welded Demo Blank

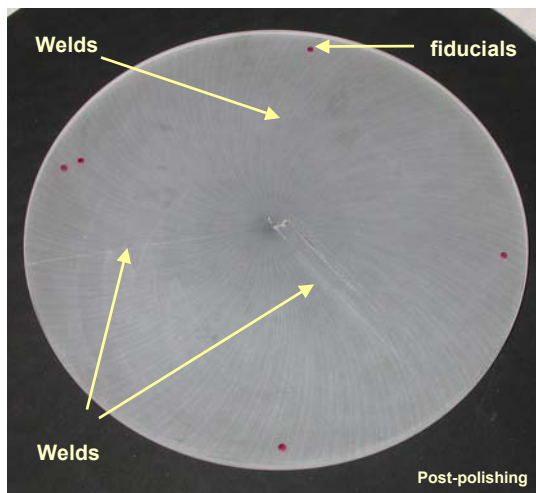


Edge-Welded Facesheet Blank-Fabrication Results

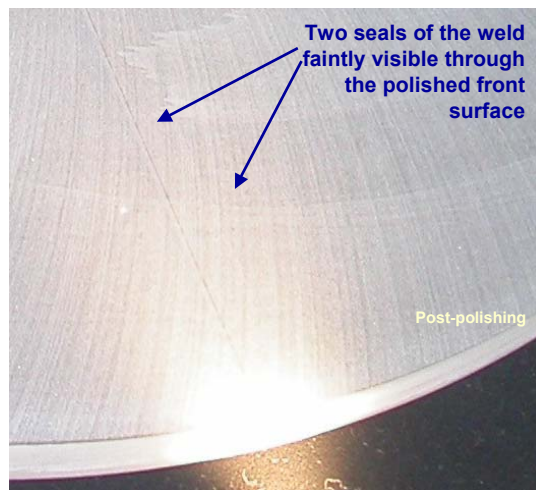
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- Corning successfully welded both the facesheet and sandwich blanks

Edge-Welded Facesheet

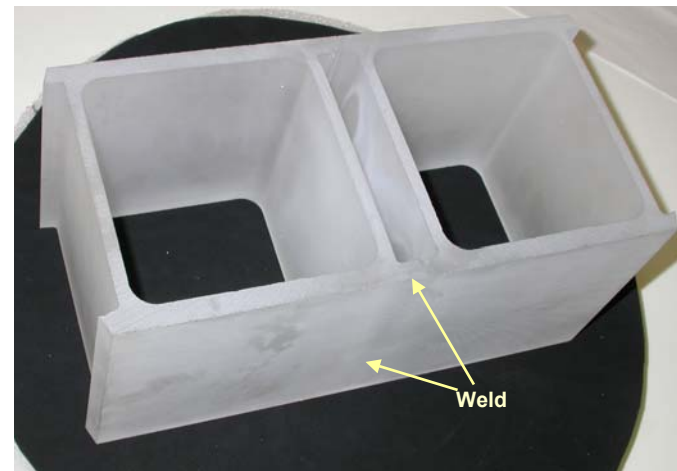


Close-up of weld in the facesheet



Weld

Edge-Welded Sandwich



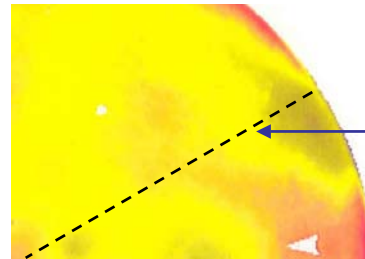
Post-anneal polarimetry indicates zero or extremely low stress in all welds of both the facesheet and sandwich blanks



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Edge-Welded Facesheet – Polishing and Testing

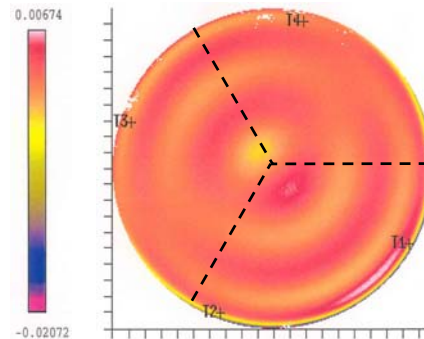
- The edge-welded facesheet was successfully polished across the sealed welds with no anomalies or discontinuities



Dashed line indicates
approximate location of
weld

No discontinuity evident across the weld

- The edge-welded facesheet is currently in thermal test at Kodak
 - No local figure change observed at +10°C above ambient: 0.002 λ RMS after removal of lower order zernikes and thermal noise



Dashed lines indicate
approximate location
of welds

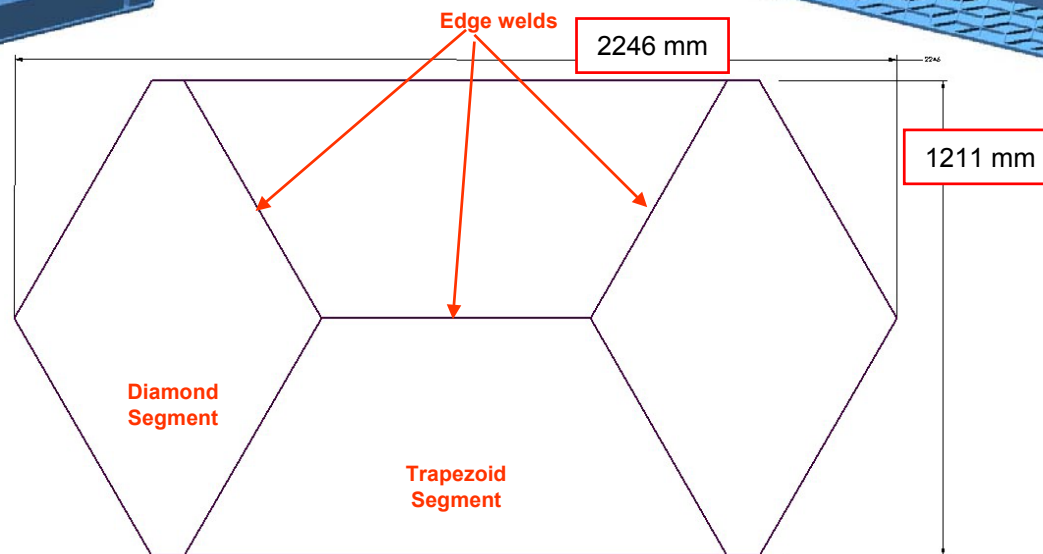
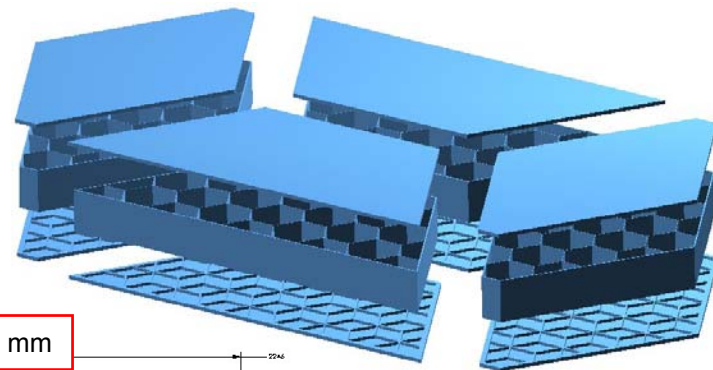
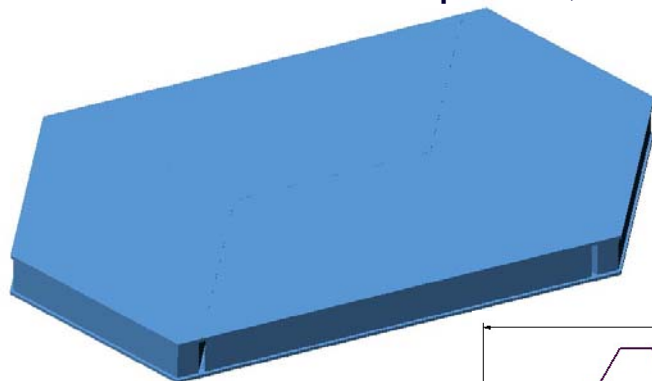
Edge-welded facesheet at elevated
temperature reveals no local figure change



Subscale Demo Mirror Design

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- The subscale demo design maintains the challenges of the full-size mirror, while fitting within existing facilities
 - Design features include 4 edge-welded segments, pocket-milled front and back plates, and an off-axis asphere





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Summary

- **TDM Program will demonstrate ability to fabricate a large optic to quality levels required to enable successful coronagraphic mission**
 - Optical Metrology and Mirror Processing Technologies will demonstrate the ability to address the demanding mid-spatial frequency specifications
 - Low-strain mirror mount approaches will show that it is feasible to develop mount techniques that will maintain the mirror quality and can survive launch
- **LMM has developed a TPF scale mirror concept**
 - Concept requires development of edge welding to assemble multiple segments into a monolithic structure
 - First-order tests validate edge welding feasibility
 - Subscale mirror concept defined to reduce fabrication risk on a larger scale traceable to the LMM design concept